



### **Nitrogen and Sulphur Management in Wheat**



Effective Nitrogen and Sulphur management are crucial for optimizing wheat production. Nitrogen supports wheat growth by promoting the synthesis of proteins, chlorophyll, and other essential compounds, contributing to strong vegetative growth and grain development. However, excessive Nitrogen can lead to imbalances, causing lodging or excessive vegetative growth at the expense of grain yield. Think about applying growth regulators, such as Moddus or Manipulator, to prevent wheat from lodging. Sulphur is equally important, as it aids in the formation of essential amino acids and proteins, supporting healthy grain development and enhancing disease resistance. A balanced supply of both nutrients is essential for wheat, as insufficient Sulphur can limit the plant's ability to utilize Nitrogen efficiently. The common ratio for Nitrogen to Sulphur is 6:1. Wheat crops with a yield goal of 100 bushels per acre crop removal is 120 lbs. of Nitrogen and 20 lbs. of Sulphur. Today more Sulphur is needed because of less available Sulphur in the environment. Increasing wheat yield increases Sulphur demand. Depending on your soil type, consider split application to reduce leaching and denitrification. The first application applied at GS29-30 stage, beginning of tillering stage. The second application applied at GS 32-39, second node to flag leaf stage. Adding a Nitrogen stabilizer, like Neon Air, can also protect against Nitrogen loss. The proper management of Nitrogen and Sulphur, including the right application timing and ratios, ensures healthy plant growth, maximizes yield, and improves the quality of the wheat produced.

### **Tar Spot – What is it and How Can it be Managed**

Tar spot is a relatively new disease to Ontario that is caused by the fungus *Phyllachora maydis*. The pathogen can blow from infected fields to other fields in the area and can be easily moved longer distances with storms and other high wind events. One of the characteristics that is concerning with tar spot specifically is that it can overwinter on field residue and cause problems the following season. It is identifiable by small, raised black spots on the leaf tissue which cannot be removed by a wet finger.

When considering management of tar spot preparedness is key. If conditions are favourable for tar spot (cool conditions, prolonged leaf wetness, higher humidity) scout the areas that spores are mostly likely to land such as wind break areas. If the disease is found, and intervention is needed, consider fungicide products such as Veltyma DLX. BASF's Veltyma DLX can be applied at VT/R1 up to R2/3. Other options include Syngenta's Miravis Neo and Bayer's Delaro Complete. Reach out to your Holmes Agro rep for more information about tar spot and it's management!



Syngenta – Tar Spot photo

### **4R Stewardship and Why it Matters**



For the past 10 years, we have been working to share and highlight the importance of following the Right Source at the Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place® when working with our customers. These practices are all part of best management strategies that maximize use and efficiencies on your operation, and Holmes Agro is proud to be 4R certified. Not only does it add to your bottom line, but it also promotes sustainable practices that aim to reduce negative environmental impacts from nutrient applications, whether they are commercial fertilizers or manure sources.

By participating in this program, we can work with regulatory bodies to show how we are proactively making positive changes to reduce the requirement for enforced restrictions and limitations. Ask your Holmes Agro agronomist how 4R practices are being used in your operation today!

## Innovation Corner – Soil Optix

In the evolving landscape of agriculture, finding effective ways to enhance productivity and sustainability is key. One promising tool is Soil Optix, a soil sensor technology designed to help farmers better understand their land.

Soil Optix provides detailed insights into soil texture, nutrient levels, and available water by combining sensor data with soil samples. This technology generates comprehensive soil maps that highlight variations within fields, allowing farmers to make more informed decisions tailored to the specific needs of their land.

At Holmes Agro, we're here to support you in exploring innovative solutions like Soil Optix. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how this technology could fit into your farming practices, feel free to reach out to your Holmes Agro agronomist.

## Holmes Agro – Solar Power Project

Holmes Agro has been installing a 100kw roof mounted solar system being on our seed warehouse in Orangeville this past winter. The solar array is sized properly so it will cover the hydro the Orangeville site consumes each year. We are looking forward to our Mid-March connection date and doing our part to help reduce our carbon footprint.



## Seed Deliveries

The first day of spring is almost here! Our office team will be calling to schedule delivery times for your seed orders this month. Please let us know if you are able to take an early delivery.

## Grower Pesticide Renewal

We have dates set in the new year for the Grower Pesticide Safety Courses at our Orangeville and Stayner locations. Please have a look at your existing cards and make plans for renewal. The course will still be offered online with multiple dates currently listed and more dates to become available in the future based on demand. Bookings can be made online at [www.opep.ca](http://www.opep.ca) or by calling 1-800-652-8573. Payments must be made ahead of time as course instructors are no longer accepting payments at the courses. Books are available at our offices for pick up anytime. Please make sure you have this in place before the upcoming year!

**Refresh and Renew:** Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Holmes Agro, Orangeville

Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> – St Patrick's Parish Hall, Stayner

## 2026 Calendar Pictures

It's never too early to send in pictures for next year's 2026 Holmes Agro calendar. We want to see your winter and spring scenes! Get your pictures submitted to be featured in next year's calendar. Every year we are proud to be able to provide a calendar of grower pictures, all thanks to your great submissions. Send your calendar picture submissions to [calendar@holmesagro.com](mailto:calendar@holmesagro.com).

## Upcoming Dates

March 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> – London Farm Show, Western Fair District  
London, ON

March 18<sup>th</sup> – Planter and Sprayer Clinic, Holmes Agro,  
Orangeville

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, Holmes Agro,  
Orangeville

March 26<sup>th</sup> – Grower Pesticide Course, St. Patrick's Hall,  
Stayner

\*\*\*\*\* Please email [media@holmesagro.com](mailto:media@holmesagro.com) to sign up for our e-newsletter \*\*\*\*\*

Jeff Bill Taylor Greg Liz Scott John Lydia Brooklyn Claire